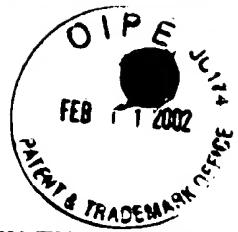


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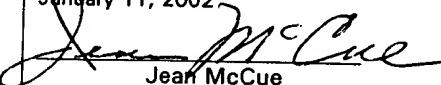
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1762

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Todd Arnold et al.
Serial No.:	09/873,675
Filing Date:	June 4, 2001
Group Art Unit	1762
Examiner	unassigned
Title of Application:	NUCLEIC ACID BINDING MATRIX

37 C.F.R. § 1.8 Certificate of Mailing
I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope with appropriate postage affixed thereto and addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.
January 11, 2002

Jean McCue

January 11, 2002

BOX NO FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED
FEB 15 2002
TC 1700

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please substitute two pending paragraphs on page 7, lines 21 - 26:

--Figures 2a, 3a, and 4a are scanning electron photomicrographs of a microporous membrane of the present disclosure illustrating the membrane imbued with a highly electropositive solid phase hydrophilic material at 500X, 2,500X, and 5,000X;

A1

Figures 2b, 3b, and 4b are scanning electron photomicrographs of a control microporous membrane without being imbued with the highly electropositive solid phase hydrophilic material of Figures 2a, 3a, and 4a at 500X, 2,500X and 5,000X;--